

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 EB-11

GAC-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /091 W  
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R 141730 Z MAR 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1527

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 452

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GW

SUBJ: SCHUETZ SUFFERS SETBACK IN MAKING PERSONNEL CHANGES  
IN BERLIN SENAT

1. SUMMARY. GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ SUFFERED PERSONAL DEFEAT AND FURTHER DAMAGE TO HIS POLITICAL REPUTATION AS RESULT OF MARCH 6 REJECTION BY SPD PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS OF HIS DESIGNATION OF HIS PERSONAL ASSISTANT, DR STRUVE, AS REPLACEMENT FOR ULRICH MUELLER AS HEAD OF SENAT CHANCELLERY. ON MARCH 13, CAUCUS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED PETER HERZ, CURRENTLY HEAD OF SENAT'S PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICE, FOR JOB; STRUVE WILL REPLACE HERZ. MEANWHILE, BERLIN SENATOR FOR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, DR HANS-GEORG WOLTERS, HAS BEEN NAMED STATE SECRETARY UNDER FRG MINISTER FOR YOUTH, FAMILY, AND HEALTH, FRAU FOCKE, REPORTEDLY WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH SCHUETZ. END SUMMARY.

2. GOVERNING MAYOR HAS HAD LESS THAN HIS OWN WAY IN RECENT PERSONNEL CHANGES IN BERLIN GOVERNMENT. HAVING HEAVILY ENGAGED HIS PERSONAL PRESTIGE AGAINST ADVICE FROM HIS OWN PARTY IN EFFORT TO HAVE HIS ASSISTANT, DR GUENTER STRUVE, NAMED HEAD OF SENAT CHANCELLERY, HE HAD TO WITHDRAW NOMINATION WHEN SPD VOTED STRUVE  
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DOWN 35-25 WITH 3 ABSTENTIONS AT PARTY CAUCUS MARCH 6. MODERATE SPD LEADERSHIP WAS ALMOST UNANIMOUS IN REGARDING STRUVE AS IN-

EXPERIENCED IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, UNSKILLED IN NEGOTIATION,  
AND ARROGANT IN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

3. WHEN CONTROVERSY FIRST DEVELOPED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, STRATEGY OF STRUVE'S OPPONENTS WAS TO HAVE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REJECT NOMINATION OF INCUMBENT CHANCELLERY DIRECTOR MUELLER AS NEW PRESIDENT OF ACCOUNTING OFFICE. WHILE MUELLER IS HIGHLY POPULAR THROUGHOUT BOTH SPD AND OPPOSITION, THIS DEVICE WAS CHOSEN, INASMUCH AS APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF ACCOUNTING OFFICE, UNLIKE THAT OF CHANCELLERY DIRECTOR, REQUIRES HOUSE APPROVAL, AND REJECTION OF MUELLER WOULD HAVE BEEN UNDERSTOOD AS DISAPPROVAL OF STRUVE ( BONN 1246). AS AFFAIR DRAGGED ON, HOWEVER, HOUSE, AT IMPETUS OF FDP, DECIDED NOT TO HOLD UP MUELLER APPOINTMENT, THUS LEAVING SPD TO FACE STRUVE ISSUE WITHIN PARTY. ( MUELLER WAS APPROVED BY OVERWHELMING HOUSE VOTE MARCH 8.)

4. UPSHOT WAS THAT SPD CAUCUS MARCH 13 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED SCHUETZ'S SECOND CHOICE, PETER HERZ, CURRENTLY HEAD OF SENAT PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICE, TO REPLACE MUELLER. DECISION TAKEN IN ABSENCE OF AN ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE AND BECAUSE FRAKTION AWARE IT COULD NOT ADMINISTER ANOTHER REBUFF TO SCHUETZ WITHOUT SERIOUS POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES. STRUVE WILL TAKE HERZ'S JOB, A MOVE WHICH REQUIRES NO FURTHER PARTY OR HOUSE CONFIRMATION.

5. SCHUETZ HAS NOT HAD MUCH BETTER LUCK IN REGARD TO MAJOR CHANGES SENAT LINEUP. IT WAS ANNOUNCED MARCH 13 THAT SENATOR FOR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, HANS- GEORG WOLTERS, WILL BECOME STATE SECRETARY UNDER FRG MINISTER FOR YOUTH, FAMILY AND HEALTH, FRAU FOCKE. MISSION IS INFORMED THAT, ALTHOUGH WOLTERS HAD PERSONALLY KEPT SCHUETZ INFORMED, LATTER WAS NOT CONSULTED BY FOCKE OR BY FEDERAL CHANCELLERY. ( SCHUETZ REPORTEDLY WAS SIMILARLY NOTIFIED EX POST FACTOM WHEN FORMER SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS HORST GRABERT WAS NAMED HEAD OF FEDERAL CHANCELLERY AFTER NOVEMBER 1972 FEDERAL ELECTIONS.) ERICH PAETZOLD, BERLIN SPD TREASURER AND DIRECTOR OF SENAT FINANCE OFFICE, HAS BEEN NAMED WOLTER'S SUCCESSOR.

6. COMMENT: STRUVE EPISODE WAS BADLY MANAGED BY SCHUETZ FROM START, WITH RESULTING DAMAGE TO HIS POLITICAL REPUTATION. SCHUETZ NEEDLESSLY DISREGARDED ADVICE OF LOCAL SPD LEADERSHIP AND SENTIMENT OF MAJORITY IN RANK AND FILE BY PRESSING AHEAD TO SHOWDOWN BY BALLOT  
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WHEN HE COULD HAVE MINIMIZED DAMAGE BY DROPPING STRUVE'S NOMINATION. AND IN SO DOING HE PERMITTED IN- HOUSE SQUABBLING TO BE WIDELY EXPOSED IN PUBLIC MEDIA. AFFAIR IS LATEST IN SERIES OF REVERSES FOR SCHUETZ, WHO HAS FAILED IN HIS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN PRESTIGIOUS POSITION FOR HIMSELF IN BONN, AND HAS BEEN WIDELY CRITICIZED FOR HIS HANDLING OF VOTING- RIGHTS ISSUE AND FOR ADVERSE DEVELOPMENTS IN BERLIN AIR TRAFFIC, E. G., FAILURE TO OBTAIN FRG SUPPORT TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON BULGARIA TO CONTINUE WEST BERLIN LANDINGS. MODALITIES OF WOLTER'S APPOINTMENT ONLY ADDED SALT TO WOUNDS.

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